

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-4, 6-35, 37-45, 47-49, and 51-58 were pending. Applicant has cancelled claims 10-22, 27-33, 37-41, 43-44, and 56-57. Please cancel claims 10-22, 27-33, 37-41, 43-44, and 56-57 without prejudice as Applicant reserves the right to pursue the cancelled claims in a continuation application. Accordingly, claims 1, 3-4, 6-9, 23-26, 34-35, 42, 45, 47-49, 51-55, and 58 remain pending in the application. Reconsideration is respectfully requested in view of the amendments to the claims and the following remarks.

I. Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1, 3-4, 6-9, 34-35, 42, 45, 47-49, 51-55, and 58 have been allowed.

II. Double Patenting

Claims 10-33, 37-41, and 43-44 were provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting over claims 1-16, 23-27, 29-34, 36, and 42 of copending Application No. 10/712,431 in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,164,801 ("Nicholl"). A terminal disclaimer is enclosed. Applicant respectfully submits that claims 23-26 are therefore in condition for allowance.

III. The § 103 Rejections

Claims 10-12, 16, 18-19, 33, 38-41, 43-44, and 56-57 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nicholl in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,134,820 ("Martinez") and U.S. Patent No. 6,069,557 ("Anglin Jr.").

Claims 13-14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nicholl in view of Martinez, Anglin Jr., and U.S. Patent No. 4,403,274 ("Moore").

Claims 15 and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nicholl in view of Martinez, Anglin Jr., and U.S. Patent No. 5,984,570 ("Parashar").

Claims 20-22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nicholl in view of Martinez, Anglin Jr., and U.S. Patent No. 5,359,448 ("Lazlo").

Claims 27-32 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nicholl in view of Martinez, Anglin Jr., and U.S. Patent No. 3,456,103 ("Bond").

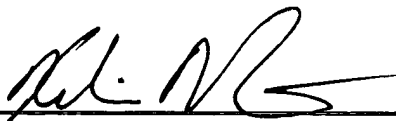
Claim 37 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nicholl in view of Martinez, Anglin Jr., and U.S. Patent No. 6,066,038 ("Sciortino").

To expedite prosecution, claims 10-22, 27-33, 37-41, 43-44, and 56-57 have been cancelled. Claims 1, 3-4, 6-9, 23-26, 34-35, 42, 45, 47-49, 51-55, and 58 should, therefore, be in condition for allowance.

Should any unresolved issues remain, Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at the telephone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,
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Date



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